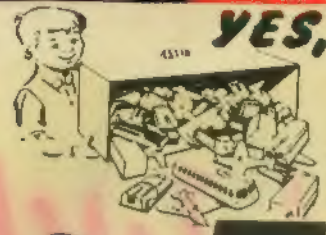
ATLAS
ASTONISHING
TERROR TALES IN THE NIGHT!
FEB.
NO. 30
Astonishing
10¢
ON SALE MONTHLY
JOE Maneely

YES, RIGHT FROM DETROIT!

FROM THE AUTO CAPITOL OF THE WORLD
TO YOU . . . COMES THIS AMAZING

MOTORCADE BARGAIN



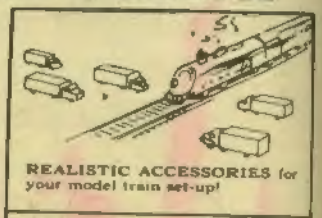
50 CARS FOR $1

REPAIR TRUCKS
HIGHWAY VANS
DELIVERY TRUCKS
U. S. ARMY PLANES
STREAMLINE TROLLEYS

NOWHERE IN LILLIPUT did Gulliver ever see anything like this! This AMAZING MOTORCADE BARGAIN includes FIFTY miniature motor cars: true three-dimensional scale models of streamline trolleys, highway vans, delivery trucks, repair service cars, and U.S. Army planes. They're wonderfully realistic, and made of durable, colorful plastic. Each car is an AUTHENTIC SOUVENIR of the motor capitol of the world! Fifty cars gives you plenty to use for all sorts of action games, exhibits, crafts and teaching projects. Ever so handy for all sorts of scout projects, school and club activities. Yes, you can even SWAP and TRADE A FEW for anything you like, and have plenty left over for months and months of fun and accomplishment!

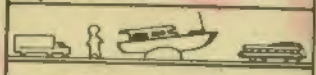
8 FEET of CARS

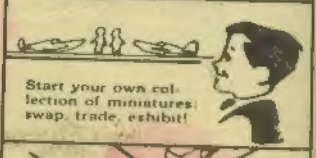
YES! Put these cars, trucks and planes end to end and you have a motorcade almost 8 ft. long



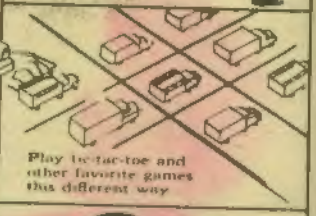
REALISTIC ACCESSORIES for your model train set-up!

Make wall panoramas with magazine picture background and highway foreground

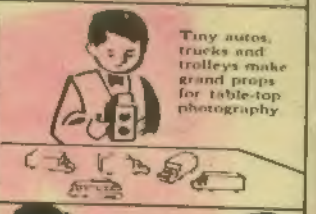




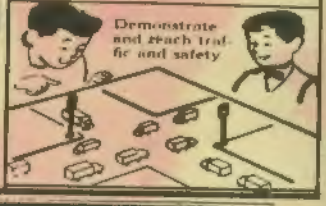
Start your own collection of miniatures; swap, trade, exhibit!



Play tic-tac-toe and other favorite games this different way



Tiny autos, trucks and trolleys make grand props for table-top photography



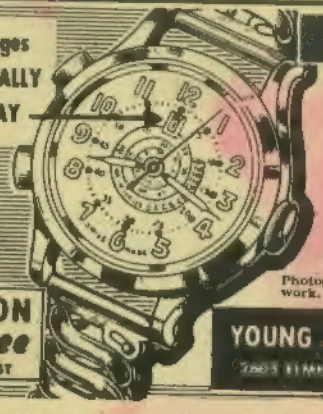
Demonstrate and teach traffic and safety

YOUNG PRODUCTS, DEPT. 2045 2605 Elmhurst, Detroit 6, Mich.

IMMEDIATE DELIVERY IF YOU ORDER NOW!

YOUNG PRODUCTS, DEPT. 2045 2605 Elmhurst, Detroit 6, Mich.
Please Rush *Sets of Cars at $1.00 each to:*
NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____
We Pay Postage. Send Check, Cash or Money Order. Your Order Rushed!

Date Changes AUTOMATICALLY EVERY DAY



AMAZING *New* WATCH with MECHANICAL BRAIN

Remembers · Tells Time · Tells Date

MEASURES SPEED · MEASURES DISTANCE · RECORDS UP TO 12 HOURS · OVER 40 QUALITY FEATURES.

Precision Jeweled. Imported Swiss Movement. Accurate. Dependable. Push-Button Stop and Start. Red Sweep-Second Hand. Unbreakable Crystal. Triple Chrome Plated Case. Shock Resistant. Nite-Vue Radium Glow Dial. Anti-Magnetic. Times Shop work. Times Photography. Times Sports. Times Races. Times Lab. work. Times Planes. Expansion Band included.

Compare it at $50.00

$8.95 Plus 90¢ Fed. Tax

EXPANSION BAND *Free* OF EXTRA COST

YOUNG PRODUCTS 2045
2605 ELMHURST • DETROIT 6, MICH.

SEND NO MONEY!

Rush coupon for immediate delivery. Wear it 10 days without obligation. Supply is, of course, limited. Order today.

ASTONISHING is published Monthly by 20th Century Comic Corp. Office of Publication: 270 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y. Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at New York, N. Y. under the Act of March 3, 1879. Additional entry at Canton, Ohio. Copyright 1953 by 20th Century Comic Corp., 270 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y. Vol. 1, No. 30, February 1954 issue. Arthur Marchand, Circulation Director. Price 10c per copy. Subscription rate $1.45 for 12 issues including postage. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions appearing in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Monroe Froehlich, Jr., Business Manager. Printed in the U.S.A.

GLAD TO HAVE YOU WITH US, KIDDIES! IN OUR FIRST WEIRDIE, THE **EYES HAVE** IT...AND IF SOMEONE DOESN'T DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS HORRIBLE DANGER IN A HURRY **YOU** MIGHT GET A VISIT FROM...

THE EYES!

OFF THE COAST OF NARRAGANSET, A FISHING BOAT LAY AT ANCHOR IN THE CALM, AND THE SILENCE WAS BROKEN ONLY BY THE LAPPING OF WAVES AGAINST THE SIDE! BUT, TEN SECONDS LATER, SOMETHING CAME DRIPPING OUT OF THE DEEP, TURNING THE NIGHT INTO A NIGHTMARE...

(GASP!)...THAT THING...IT'S COMING ABOARD! **LOOK AT EVANS!**

AAAIIIEEE!

MADRE MIA, PROTECT US! WHAT IS IT?

HELP! SOMEBODY DO SOMETHING!

THE EDITORS GUARANTEE THAT THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST **ASTONISHING** STORIES YOU'VE EVER READ!

THE TERROR THAT WAS BEYOND UNDERSTANDING CAME IN SILENCE, REEKING OF ROT AND COVERED WITH SEA-BOTTOM SLIME! SHRIEKS OF AGONY AND MADNESS FILLED THE AIR, AND THEN WERE CUT SHORT... BY DEATH!

AAIIEE! I'M MELTING AWAY!

NO! NO! HELP US!

AAIIEE!

AS SWIFTLY AS THEY APPEARED, THE THINGS WENT... LEAVING BEHIND ONLY A DESOLATE SILENCE... AN UNFINISHED BOTTLE OF RUM, A CARD GAME WITHOUT PLAYERS, A TWISTED ACCORDION... AND THE HELM SPINNING FREE WITHOUT A HUMAN HAND TO GUIDE IT...

THE BARREN SHIP DRIFTED WITH THE EARLY MORNING TIDES, BACK TO SHORE... WITH ONLY THE WIND WHIPPING THROUGH THE SAILS... ANOTHER SCHOONER TO BECOME A LEGENDARY "GHOST SHIP"...

IT'S THE **ALBATROSS!** AND THERE'S NO ONE ABOARD!

THEY'RE GONE! ALL HANDS ARE MISSING!

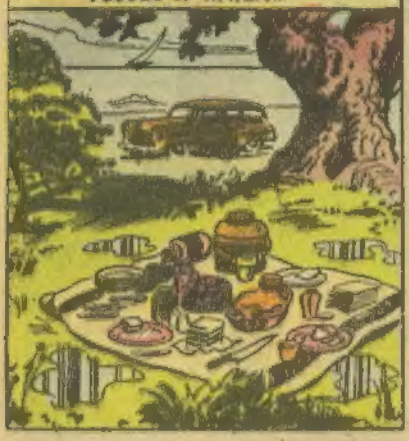
IT'S A GHOST SHIP... LIKE THE "FLYING DUTCHMAN"!

AT THE SAME MOMENT, NOT FAR AWAY, A SOLITARY FISHERMAN WAITED PATIENTLY ON THE ROCKBOUND SHORE FOR A STRIKE AT HIS LINE... HE WAITED PEACEFULLY IN THE EARLY MORNING COOLNESS...

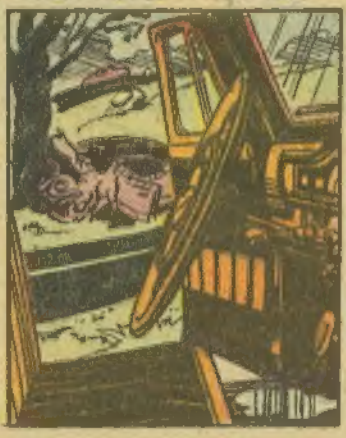
IT APPEARED IN FRONT OF HIM SUDDENLY, RISING OUT OF THE FOAMY WAVES, STARING AT HIM LIKE A HUGE, BLOODSHOT EYE...

AND THEN ONCE AGAIN THE THING WAS GONE, LEAVING ONLY A PUDDLE OF WATER WHERE A LIVING HUMAN HAD STOOD... AND ALL WAS SILENT EXCEPT FOR THE SEA SWELLS LASHING AGAINST THE ROCKS...

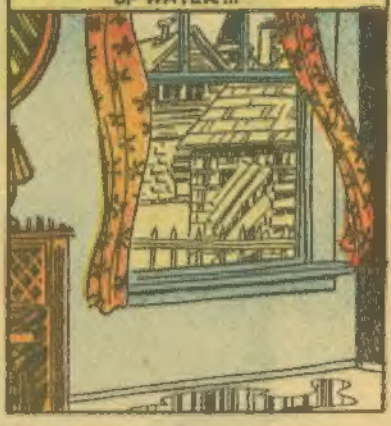
THE HORROR SPREAD ALONG THE COAST LIKE THE PLAGUE... AND EVERYWHERE THERE WERE SIGNS OF TRAVELERS AND VACATIONERS WHO WERE CAUGHT UNAWARES... THE ONLY SIGN, A SMALL PUDDLE OF WATER...



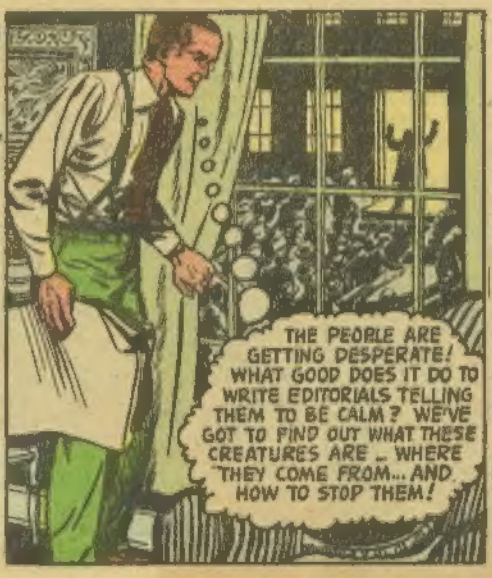
DEATH STALKED THE HIGHWAYS, AND ALL ALONG OPEN STRETCHES OF ROAD COULD BE SEEN THE DESERTED CARS... ON THE FLOOR OF EACH ONE THERE WAS A SMALL PUDDLE OF WATER....



AND SWIFTLY THE SMALL SEACOAST VILLAGES TURNED INTO GHOST TOWNS... THE FEARLESS ONES WHO DIDN'T RUN AWAY WERE SUDDENLY MISSING... THEIR HOUSES EMPTY EXCEPT FOR SMALL PUDDLES OF OF WATER...



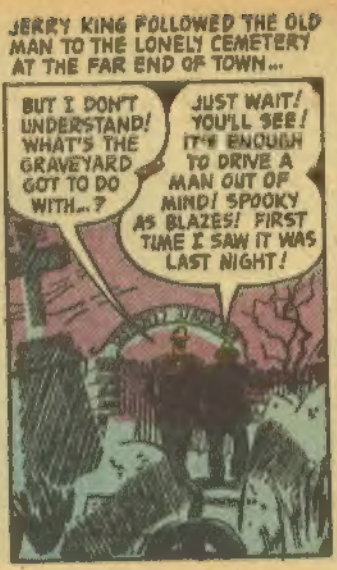
ALONE IN HIS APARTMENT IN THE CENTER OF TOWN... JERRY KING, EDITOR OF THE DAILY HERALD, WATCHED THE CROWDS GATHERING IN FRONT OF THE MAYOR'S OFFICE! IT IT WAS A MOB HYSTERICAL WITH FEAR OF THE STRANGE TERROR THAT HAD STRUCK THEIR VILLAGE...


THE PEOPLE ARE GETTING DESPERATE! WHAT GOOD DOES IT DO TO WRITE EDITORIALS TELLING THEM TO BE CALM? WE'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHAT THESE CREATURES ARE .. WHERE THEY COME FROM... AND HOW TO STOP THEM!

DEEP IN THOUGHT, JERRY KING WAS STARTLED BY THE SUDDEN KNOCKING AT HIS DOOR... TWO QUICK RAPS, AND THEN A MOMENT'S QUIET... FOLLOWED BY A SOFT PERSISTENT TAPPING...

RAP
RAP
TAP TAP TAP
WHO'D BE COMING HERE AT THIS HOUR?
WHO IS IT? WHO'S THERE?
LET ME IN, MR. KING! YOU DON'T KNOW ME, BUT I MAY HAVE THE ANSWER TO SOME THINGS YOU MIGHT WANT TO KNOW! OPEN THE DOOR, QUICKLY!
2

WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I'M THE CARETAKER AT THE RIVERDALE CEMETERY! YOU'RE THE EDITOR WHO OFFERED A REWARD FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THEM THINGS...THE EYES... WHERE THEY COME FROM! I'VE GOT THE ANSWER, IF YOU'LL COME WITH ME!


JERRY KING FOLLOWED THE OLD MAN TO THE LONELY CEMETERY AT THE FAR END OF TOWN...
BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND! WHAT'S THE GRAVEYARD GOT TO DO WITH...?
JUST WAIT! YOU'LL SEE! IT'S ENOUGH TO DRIVE A MAN OUT OF MIND! SPOOKY AS BLAZES! FIRST TIME I SAW IT WAS LAST NIGHT!

THE OLD MAN LED HIM THROUGH THE GROUNDS, TOWARD HIS SHACK IN THE CENTER, AND THE EDITOR FOUND HIMSELF WONDERING IF HE WAS BEING LED INTO A TRAP OF SOME KIND! ONCE INSIDE THE HUT, THE GRAVEKEEPER TURNED DOWN THE LANTERN...
THERE... GET OVER TO THE WINDOW AND YOU'LL SEE THEM SOON...SOMEONE WAS BURIED TODAY!
BURIED? WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH THE EYES FROM THE OCEAN?

BUT BEFORE HE COULD FINISH, HE SAW IT THROUGH THE WINDOW— AND IT SENT A FREEZING CHILL DOWN HIS SPINE TO SEE THE THINGS SO CLOSELY...
(GASP!) IT'S REALLY THEM! BUT WHAT ARE THEY DOING HERE IN THE GRAVEYARD?
YOU'LL SOON SEE WHAT I SAW LAST NIGHT!

THE EYES WERE THERE IN FRONT OF HIM, AND THEY TWISTED AND SQUIRMED THEIR WAY THROUGH THE CEMETERY UNTIL THEY REACHED A FRESHLY DUG GRAVE COVERED WITH FLOWERS! ONE OF THE THINGS SEEMED TO SINK INTO THE EARTH RIGHT OVER THE COFFIN...
GREAT SCOTT! IT'S GOING DOWN! IT'S SINKING RIGHT INTO THE GRAVE! BUT WHY?
YOU'LL SEE! YOU'LL SOON KNOW WHAT THEY REALLY ARE!

HE WATCHED, SPELLBOUND, AS THE HUGE EYE SANK DOWN INTO THE GRAVE APPROXIMATELY AT THE POINT WHERE THE CORPSE'S HEAD WOULD BE, AND THEN IT CAME UP AGAIN, CLUTCHING SOMETHING IN ITS TENTACLES...
NOW YOU KNOW WHAT THEY REALLY ARE! LIKE I SAID BEFORE, IT'S ENOUGH TO DRIVE A MAN MAD!
GOOD HEAVENS! IT... IT'S INCREDIBLE!

HUMAN EYES, THAT ARE TAKEN TO THE SEA! I CAN SEE IT ALL NOW... THEY'RE NURSED BY THE OTHERS UNTIL THEY GROW TO FULL SIZE... AND THEN, THEY RETURN TO THE LAND!

HE LEFT THE CEMETERY, SHAKEN AND AFRAID! THE THOUGHT THAT THESE CREATURES WERE ONCE PART OF LIVING HUMAN BEINGS TERRIFIED HIM...

HE DROVE AIMLESSLY FOR A LONG TIME, HIS MIND GROPING FOR A WAY OUT OF THE FOG! HE HAD TO SPEAK TO SOMEONE! HE CALLED ON HIS GIRL FRIEND.

THERE MUST BE A WAY! THEY'VE GOT TO BE STOPPED BEFORE THEY SPREAD OUT AND WIPE OUT ALL HUMANITY!
JERRY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT THIS LATE? IS ANYTHING WRONG?

COME ON, JERRY... SNAP OUT OF IT AND HAVE A CUP OF COFFEE! WHAT'S GOT YOU SO UPSET, ANYWAY?
THINGS... THOSE THINGS, HELEN! I'VE SEEN THEM... HUMAN EYES GROWN TO GIANT SIZE UNDER THE SEA! THERE MUST BE A WEAPON... A WAY TO STOP THEM!

JUST A MINUTE, WHILE I TURN THIS LAMP OFF! THE BRIGHT BULB HURTS MY EYES! NOW, WHAT WERE YOU SAYING?
I WAS TALKING ABOUT A WAY TO STOP THEM!

THAT'S IT! THAT'S THE WAY TO STOP THEM! YOU'VE GIVEN ME THE ANSWER!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND, JERRY! WHAT DO YOU MEAN? ALL I SAID WAS, THE LIGHT HURT MY EYES!

THAT'S JUST IT! THOSE EYES ARE HUMAN, TOO! A STRONG LIGHT FLASHED RIGHT AT THEM SHOULD DRIVE THEM AWAY OR PARALYZE THEM BEFORE THEY CAN DESTROY!

HOW WONDERFUL, JERRY! BUT WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I'VE GOT TO SPREAD THE WORD... PRINT IT IN THE PAPER AND HAVE IT REPORTED OVER RADIO AND TV! THE DEFENSE WEAPON IS AN ORDINARY FLASHLIGHT!

THAT NIGHT JERRY GOT OUT AN EXTRA, TELLING THE PEOPLE HOW TO PROTECT THEMSELVES AGAINST THE EYE-THINGS...

A FLASHLIGHT! NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT!

THE RADIO NETWORKS CARRIED THE MESSAGE INTO THE HOMES, AND EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD WAS WARNED TO...

... CARRY A FLASHLIGHT! EVERYONE IS WARNED TO BE PREPARED WITH FRESH BATTERIES FOR STRONG AND POWERFUL BEAMS!

WE'RE READY! LET 'EM COME!

TELEVISION RECEIVERS CARRIED DEMONSTRATIONS OF THE BEST WAY TO DEFEAT THE MENACE...

KEEP YOUR FLASHLIGHT HANDY! IF YOU SEE AN EYE-THING, BLIND IT WITH LIGHT!

TV

THE METHOD WORKED! FROM ALL OVER THE COAST, REPORTS CAME IN FROM PEOPLE WHO SAW THE *EYE-MONSTERS* AND LIVED TO TELL OF DRIVING THEM AWAY WITH A STRONG BEAM OF LIGHT FLASHED INTO THE PUPIL! SLOWLY, THEY WERE DRIVEN BACK INTO THE SEA WHENCE THEY HAD COME!

THE PEOPLE OF THE TOWN, OVERJOYED AT DEFEATING THE HORRIBLE MENACE, WERE HAPPY TO THROW A PARTY IN HONOR OF THEIR HERO...THE EDITOR OF THE DAILY HERALD!

A TOAST TO JERRY, WHO SAVED US ALL!

JUST A LUCKY GUESS! BUT THIS WILL GIVE US TIME TO FIGURE A WAY TO DESTROY THEM IN THEIR OWN LAIR!

...WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM TO BRING YOU A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT! THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF VERY STRANGE ROBBERIES OVER THE ENTIRE CITY...

5

BUT THERE'S NOTHING TO BE ALARMED ABOUT! NOTHING OF VALUE HAS BEEN STOLEN...THE ONLY ITEMS TAKEN BY THE THIEVES ARE... DARK GLASSES!

THE END

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN WEIRD STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER ATLAS

SOMEONE IS WAITING!!

MILLARD GORDON slammed the door. And with the sound ended the torrent of words that his wife shouted as she stood near the kitchen sink, looking down at a pile of shattered dishes.

After Millard had left the house in disgust, his wife looked at a blank wall and continued her harsh words.

"Lazy good for nothing husband," she screamed, "can't even do the dishes when he's told without breaking most of them . . . and look at the way he splattered the floor with water . . . and those dish-towels . . . so filthy . . . probably never bothered to wash the dishes. Can't do a blamed thing right, that man."

Millard could hear in his mind the words of his wife, and a strained look spread over his lined face.

"This is the END . . . the ABSOLUTE END," he swore to himself. "I've taken Ellie's threats, her meanness, her bossiness, long enough, and now it's got to stop. We're married twenty years, and these have been twenty years of nothing but *'do this, and do that, and then when you're through, do the other thing.'* I can't take it any longer. She's nagged me for the last time . . . THE LAST TIME!"

Millard scowled, and his rage bubbled furiously, and then simmered as he noticed that the Fall air was crisp and pleasant on this Friday evening.

"Hmmm, haven't been out much to enjoy this Fall weather lately . . . been kept too busy by . . . " he stopped short and clenched his fists, "by Ellie . . . doing dishes, mopping floors, cleaning windows, carrying out her . . . her orders like a slave. A stupid, innocent slave . . . well, it's over now . . . there'll be no more of that . . . I'll go away . . . she'll never find me. . . ."

He tried not to think of Ellie as he strolled toward Main Street to get the evening paper. When he reached it he held out a coin.

"Evening Times, Joe," he muttered.

"Sure . . . got troubles, Mr. Gordon?" asked the man behind the blockade of papers and magazines.

"Hmmn?" he answered. "Oh, yeah . . . the wife . . . as usual."

Millard scowled at the news headlines, and flipped the pages over. A small headline on the third page caught his attention. It read, "Man Slays Wife, Disappears."

Suddenly, he found himself thinking out loud. "By gosh . . . this'll do it . . . solve everything . . ." He thought back on the years of misery with Ellie, and miraculously, a new courage swept over his body. He started for his home.

He was almost there when he hesitated, but he straightened and went on. He opened the front door.

"MILLARD . . . HOW DARE YOU . . . how dare you run out like that . . . now I want you to come right in here and put up these curtains. MILLARD . . . *MILLARD* . . . Hurry it up . . ."

His wife's nagging voice sent tongues of fire into his brain. From the living room he could see her standing with her back to the door, fussing with yellow curtains that lay on the kitchen table. He started for the kitchen, and picked up a heavy iron poker from the fireplace, holding it in back of himself as he approached Ellie.

"Y-yes, dear, I'm com . . ."

SMASH!

He brought the poker down on his wife's head, and she fell

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT STORY . . .

NOW LET'S SEE WHAT'S BREWING IN THE WORLD OF THE FUTURE... **TROUBLE**, AND LOTS OF IT, FOR THE PEOPLE OF **EARTH!** AND THE **ONE** GUY WHO **COULD** SAVE THE FOLKS STANDS BY AND WON'T LIFT A FINGER! BUT THERE'S A **PLAN** COOKIN' IN THE OLD BOY'S BRAIN!

THE RULERS OF EARTH

IT HAPPENED AT 12:01 ON JANUARY 17, 2610 A.D. ...

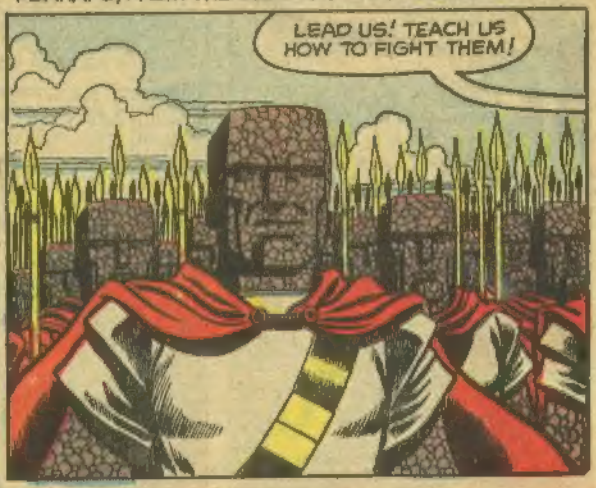
THE INVADERS CAME FROM OUTER SPACE, AND MANKIND HAD NO WAY OF FIGHTING BACK! ALL IT COULD DO WAS WAIT.., AND SUBMIT TO THE YOKE OF SLAVERY!

AND THE FAULT WAS ONE MAN'S!

YOU, OUR LEADER, HAVE BETRAYED US! YOU URGED US TO PEACE AND OUTLAWED ALL ARMS AND WEAPONS! TIME FOR RELAXATION, YOU SAID! TIME FOR WARS TO END! WHAT DO WE DO NOW, TRAITOR?

LEADER, WE HAVE FOLLOWED YOU FOR YEARS! OUR YOUTH HAVE BEEN TRAINED SINCE INFANCY TO OBEY YOUR EVERY WORD! WHAT IS YOUR ANSWER TO THIS? HOW DO WE FIGHT BACK?

ON CAME THE INVADERS! THE CHIEF'S LIPS TWISTED INTO A SNEER! HE KNEW THERE WOULD BE NO OPPOSITION FROM THESE EARTH WEAKLINGS, EXCEPT, PERHAPS, FROM THE LEADER! WHAT WOULD HE DO?



FOR ONE TENSE MOMENT, SILENCE! ALL WAITED FOR THE LEADER'S MOVE! AND THEN IT CAME!

TEARS FILLED THE EYES OF THE PEOPLE OF EARTH AT THIS FINAL BETRAYAL!

BUT THE YOUTH, TRAINED FROM THE CRADLE, BELIEVED THAT THE LEADER COULD DO NO WRONG, AND THEY FOLLOWED HIM...

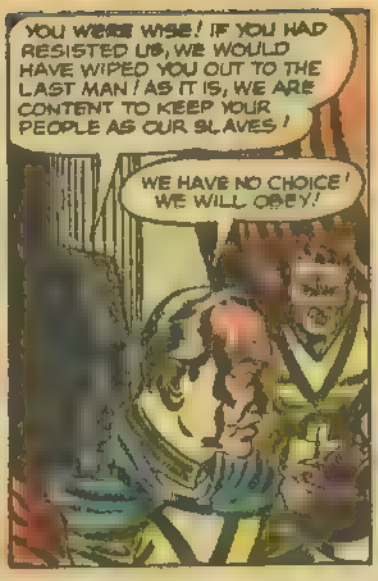
SIDE-BY-SIDE, THE CHIEF FROM OUTER SPACE AND THE TRAITOR LEADER OF THE EARTHLINGS WALKED PAST THE GRIEF-STRICKEN MASS OF HUMANITY!

THE STATUES OF THE LEADER ERECTED BY A GRATEFUL PUBLIC FOR HIS SERVICE, WERE TORN DOWN BY THEM AND DESTROYED!

THE RECORDS OF HIS ACHIEVEMENTS WERE BURNED! ALL THAT HE HAD DONE BEFORE WAS FORGOTTEN IN THE WAVE OF HATRED THAT FOLLOWED HIS BETRAYAL OF THE PEOPLE TO THE INVADERS!

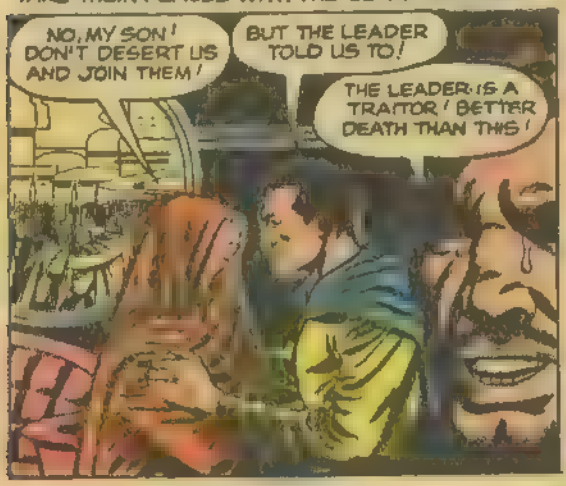
WHEREVER HE APPEARED, HE WAS JEERED AND DERIDED! HE WAS HATED MORE THAN THE INVADER, BECAUSE ***HE*** HAD TURNED TRAITOR TO HIS OWN PEOPLE!

YOU ARE MUCH SMARTER THAN THE OTHERS, LEADER! YOU KNOW IT'S USELESS TO FIGHT US!
I BELIEVE IN PEACE, O CHIEF! I OUTLAWED WAR MANY YEARS AGO!

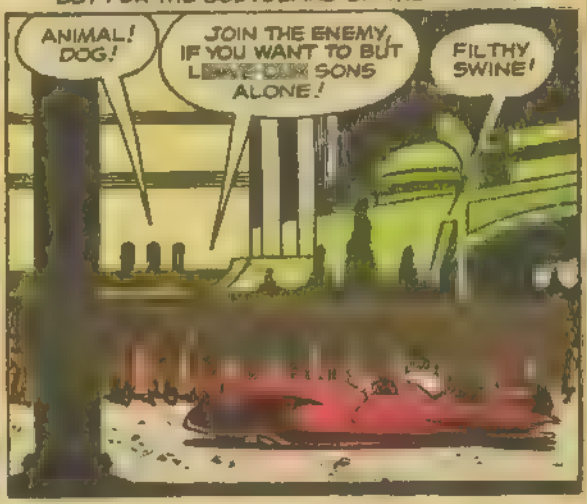

YOU WERE WISE! IF YOU HAD RESISTED US, WE WOULD HAVE WIPED YOU OUT TO THE LAST MAN! AS IT IS, WE ARE CONTENT TO KEEP YOUR PEOPLE AS OUR SLAVES!
WE HAVE NO CHOICE! WE WILL OBEY!

THE YOUTH FOLLOW YOU FAITHFULLY! THEY ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO STILL BELIEVE IN YOU!
THEY KNOW NO OTHER WAY OF ACTING! THEY ARE STRONG, CHIEF! TAKE THEM INTO THE RANKS OF YOUR SOLDIERS!

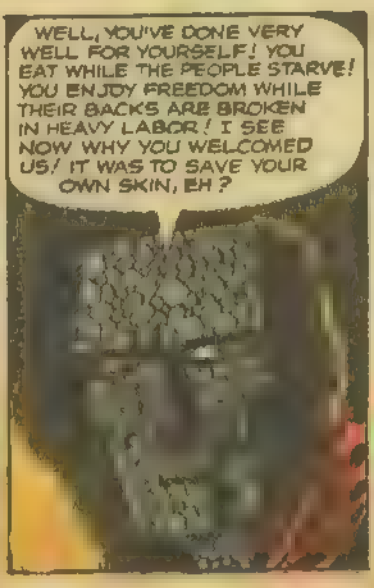
ONE MORE BETRAYAL... AND THE WORST! THE PEOPLE OF EARTH SAW THEIR OWN FLESH AND BLOOD JOIN THE HOSTS OF THE INVADERS AND TAKE THEIR PLACES WITH THE SLAVE DRIVERS!



NOW THE LEADER WAS THOROUGHLY DESPISED! HE WAS SPAT UPON AND STONED, HIS LIFE IN DANGER BUT FOR THE BODYGUARD OF THE INVADER!



YOU'VE TAKEN A GREAT RISK! YOUR OWN PEOPLE MAY KILL YOU AT ANY TIME! EVEN ONE OF THE YOUTH MAY TURN ON YOU!
NO! THEY KNOW ONLY MY COMMAND! I AM NOT WORRIED ABOUT THEM!


WELL, YOU'VE DONE VERY WELL FOR YOURSELF! YOU EAT WHILE THE PEOPLE STARVE! YOU ENJOY FREEDOM WHILE THEIR BACKS ARE BROKEN IN HEAVY LABOR! I SEE NOW WHY YOU WELCOMED US! IT WAS TO SAVE YOUR OWN SKIN, EH?

TWO YEARS MORE OF LABOR, AND EVERY HUMAN WILL BE DEAD! THE YOUTH WILL BE SENT ON SPACE VOYAGES THAT THEY CAN'T SURVIVE! BUT WHAT DO YOU CARE, AS LONG AS YOU'RE ALIVE AND HEALTHY, EH? BEING A TRAITOR HAS ITS POINTS!
YES, IT HAS...

ALL OF MANKIND SUFFERED UNDER THE YOKE OF THE INVADER! ALL EXCEPT ONE MAN HE WHO HAD BEEN THEIR LEADER! THE OLDER PEOPLE WERE SLAVES... THE YOUTH HAD JOINED THE RANKS OF THE INVADER SOLDIERS! THEN ON JANUARY 27, 2611 A.D. THE HEAVIEST BLOW OF ALL FELL...

NOTICE! UNDER PENALTY OF DEATH, EVERY HUMAN SLAVE IS ORDERED TO GATHER IN INVADER SQUARE AT ONE P.M. WHERE A GREAT PARADE AND REVIEW WILL BE HELD IN HONOR OF THE ONLY SENSIBLE HUMAN ON EARTH, THE LEADER!

THE CHIEF!

NO ONE DARED STAY AWAY. THE GREAT CROWD GATHERED AT THE SQUARE TO WITNESS THEIR OWN FURTHER SHAME!

UP TO THE REVIEWING STAND WENT ONLY TWO PEOPLE... THE CHIEF AND THE LEADER.

AND THE CHIEF GAVE THE SIGNAL FOR THE REVIEW TO BEGIN!

DRUMS BEAT THE MARCHING RHYTHM...

TRRRRRRRR

TRUMPETS BLARED OUT IN THE SQUARE!

AND THE SADDENED EYES SAW THE COMPLETE DISGRACE OF THEIR YOUTH! SIDE-BY-SIDE THEY WERE MARCHING WITH THE RULERS OF EARTH, THE VERY ONES WHO WERE THEIR MASTERS!

THE HOSTS OF CONQUEROR AND CONQUERED HALTED BEFORE THE REVIEWING STAND! THE LEADER RAISED HIS ARM FOR SILENCE AS A MURMUR PASSED THROUGH THE CROWD.

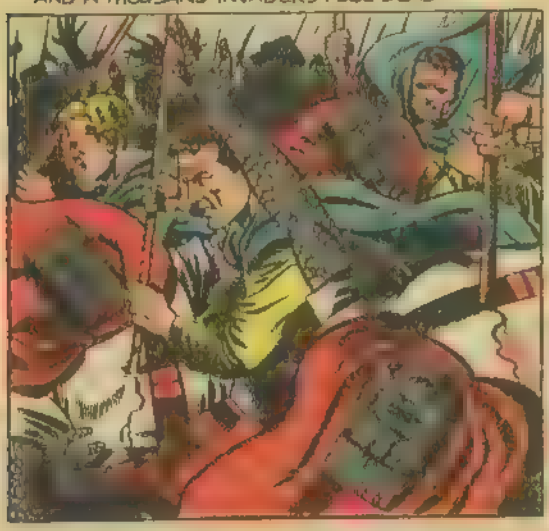
WHAT NEW BETRAYAL IS HE PLANNING NOW?

HOW CAN HE DEGRADE HIMSELF MORE THAN HE ALREADY HAS?

SILENCE... AS THE CROWDS WAITED... THEN, THE LEADER CRIED OUT!

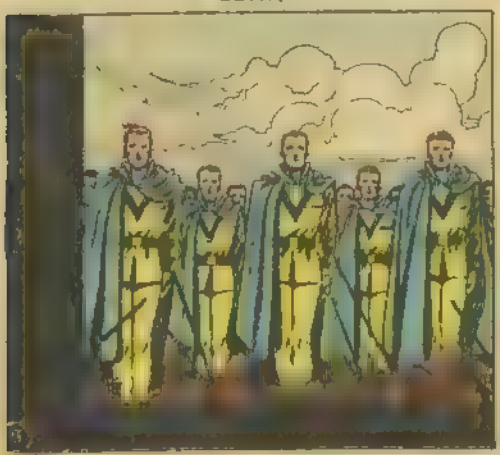
AT THE COMMAND A THOUSAND SPEARS WERE RAISED AT ONCE!

AND A THOUSAND INVADERS FELL DEAD!

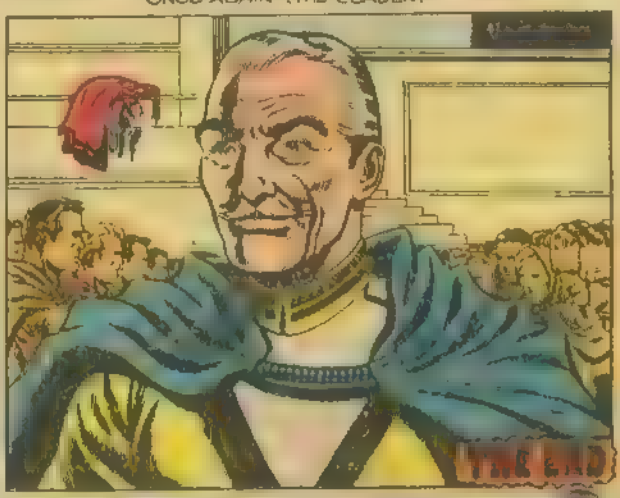


EACH YOUTH OBEYED THE LEADER'S ORDER! EACH KILLED THE INVADER BESIDE HIM!

IT WAS ALL OVER IN LESS THAN A HALF-MINUTE. THE PERFECTLY-PLANNED MASS EXECUTION OF THE INVADER! NOT A HUMAN HAD DIED... AND NOW MANKIND WAS ONCE AGAIN AS IT HAD BEEN!



AND THROUGH THE RANKS OF THE YOUTH AND THE PEOPLE, NOW SILENT IN TRIBUTE, WALKED THE MAN WHO WAS ONCE AGAIN THE LEADER!



ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN WEIRD STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER ATLAS

with a thud to the floor.

Millard looked at his dead wife, and started to shake. He held on to a chair and steadied himself, then he ran upstairs. He packed a small suitcase hurriedly, rushed downstairs, closed the door behind him, muttered "Good riddance" to the house, and headed for the station. He bought a ticket to an Eastern town, boarded the train, and it soon sped him away from the years he remembered and hated.

He sat, relaxed, looking at a magazine while the train rumbled on. The whistle of the train startled him, and his eyes widened as the whistle seemed to be talking . . . talking to him. "Dust the piano, dust the piano, dry the dishes, wax the floor . . ."

Millard almost stood in his seat. "Good heavens . . . it's . . . ELLIE . . . talking . . . nagging . . . nagging me . . ."

He dropped the magazine and ran to the dining car, where he ordered some coffee, thinking it would clear his head. As the waiter brought his coffee and spoke to Millard, he found himself staring at the waiter's mouth . . . The waiter seemed to be saying, "Clean the furnace . . . hang your clothes . . . don't you HEAR me?"

Millard rose, and pushed the table away from him, nearly knocking the waiter and the table down . . . he screamed, "IT'S ELLIE . . . ELLIE . . . and I hear her nagging me . . . everywhere . . . her hateful voice . . ."

Terror-stricken, he ran to the door of the dining car and looked out at the ground which fast disappeared under the rails of the speeding train . . . and without another thought, he opened the door, smashed the outside window, and leaped from the train.

In a moment, he crashed to the hard ground, and struck his head on a rock. He stopped rolling and opened his eyes. "I-I'm ALIVE . . . I should be dead, but I'm ALIVE . . . *why?*" he thought.

His head began to pound. His heart beat faster, and he sat up. A voice . . . a voice speaking to him . . . the pounding of his heart became a voice . . . Ellie's voice . . . screaming at him.

In the distance, Millard saw the headlights of a car coming toward the rail crossing. He headed directly for the lights, and in a moment the car was upon him. The driver didn't see him, and the car hit and threw him into the air. When he hit the ground, his eyes opened wide with horror. "I-I'm not dead . . . Twice I should have been killed . . . why . . . why can't I DIE? . . . WHY DON'T I DIE? . . ." he pleaded.

He looked around frantically, looking . . . looking for . . . for anything . . . anything to take him away from the voice . . . the nagging. The whistle of a train coming in his direction sent shivers of excitement through him. He walked to the tracks, and lay quietly across them, his eyes closed, expecting a swift death as the train rumbled near. He heard the whistle of the train just around a bend, and then the sound of the wheels approaching . . . faster . . . faster . . . he smiled, knowing that this was the end of his misery.

The train passed . . . and Millard's heart was stilled. His body was still and lifeless, and a smile was upon his mangled face.

Then, suddenly, a voice called . . . a familiar voice . . . welcomed him to another world. Millard's spirit rose from the tracks. Another spirit form drifted close to his. Then it began to speak . . .

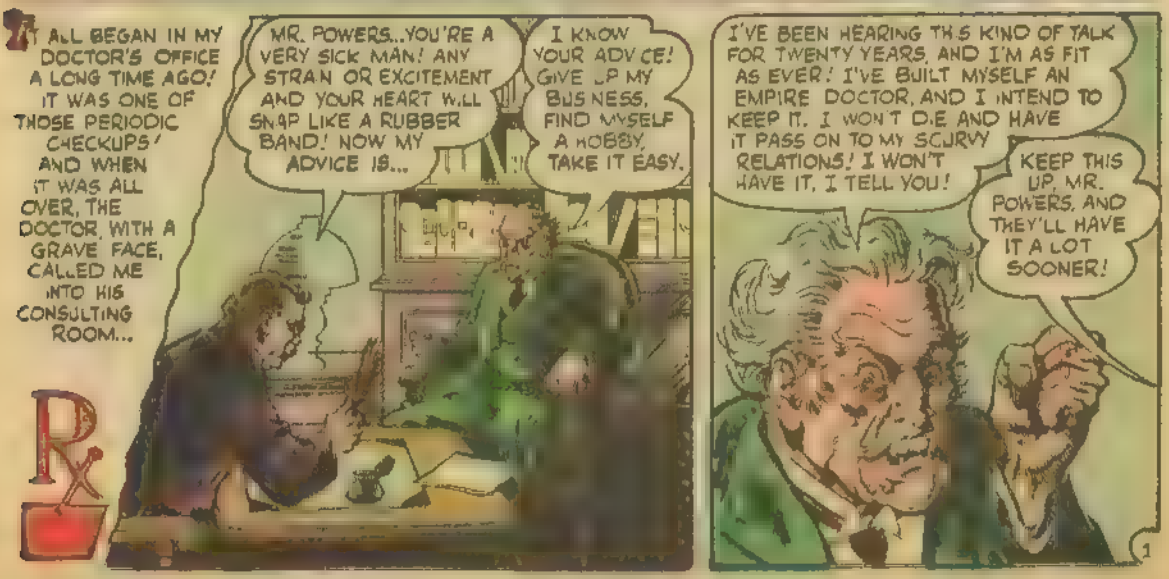
"WELL . . . WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN, LAZYBONES? IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU CAME BACK TO ME. NOW, HERE'S A LIST OF CHORES I WANT DONE BEFORE TONIGHT. FIRST YOU CAN SWEEP THE FLOOR. . . ."

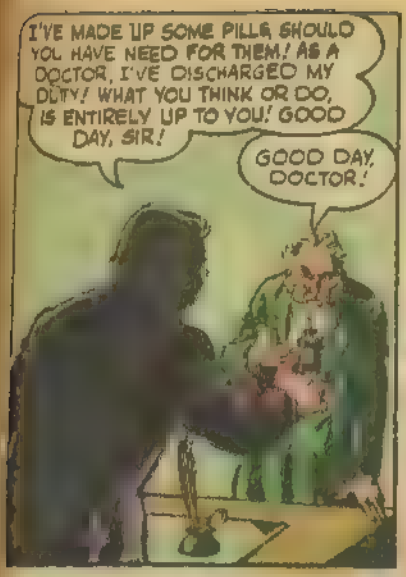
THE END — 10,014

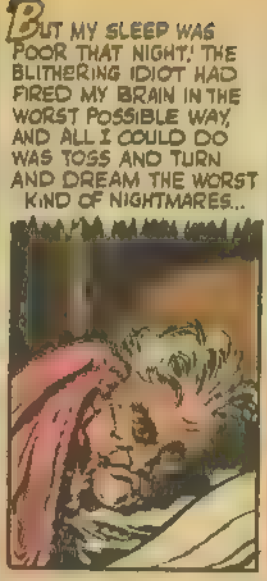
ONE WILL END. YOU CAN GO TO THE HEAD OF THE CLASS!

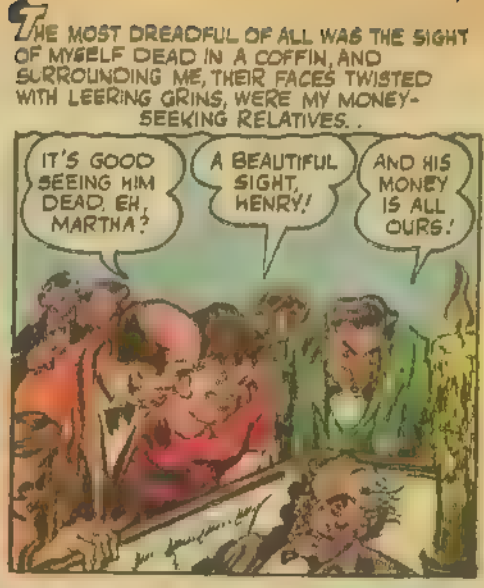
THE DEATH OF ME

AH, A VISITOR! COME IN...DON'T BE AFRAID! IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE SPOKEN TO SOMEONE! YOU ASK WHY I SIT HERE? WELL, I AM WAITING! FOR WHOM? SUPPOSE YOU SHOO MY LITTLE FRIENDS OFF THE TABLE AND JOIN ME IN A SPOT OF FOOD! MAKE YOURSELF REAL COZY, AND I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING!
ASTONISHING
AL CAMPANO

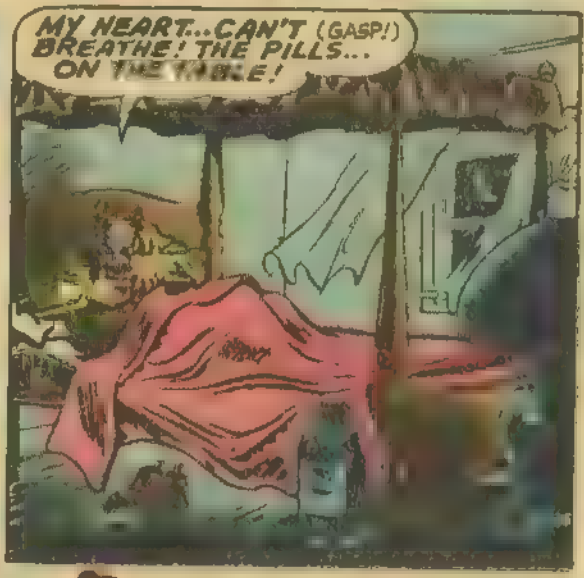

IT ALL BEGAN IN MY DOCTOR'S OFFICE A LONG TIME AGO! IT WAS ONE OF THOSE PERIODIC CHECKUPS! AND WHEN IT WAS ALL OVER, THE DOCTOR, WITH A GRAVE FACE, CALLED ME INTO HIS CONSULTING ROOM...
MR. POWERS...YOU'RE A VERY SICK MAN! ANY STRAIN OR EXCITEMENT AND YOUR HEART WILL SNAP LIKE A RUBBER BAND! NOW MY ADVICE IS...
I KNOW YOUR ADVICE! GIVE UP MY BUSINESS, FIND MYSELF A HOBBY, TAKE IT EASY.
I'VE BEEN HEARING THIS KIND OF TALK FOR TWENTY YEARS, AND I'M AS FIT AS EVER! I'VE BUILT MYSELF AN EMPIRE DOCTOR, AND I INTEND TO KEEP IT. I WON'T DIE AND HAVE IT PASS ON TO MY SCURVY RELATIONS! I WON'T HAVE IT, I TELL YOU!
KEEP THIS UP, MR. POWERS, AND THEY'LL HAVE IT A LOT SOONER!
Rx
1

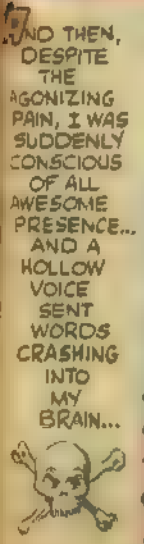

I'VE MADE UP SOME PILLS, SHOULD YOU HAVE NEED FOR THEM! AS A DOCTOR, I'VE DISCHARGED MY DUTY! WHAT YOU THINK OR DO, IS ENTIRELY UP TO YOU! GOOD DAY, SIR!
GOOD DAY, DOCTOR!

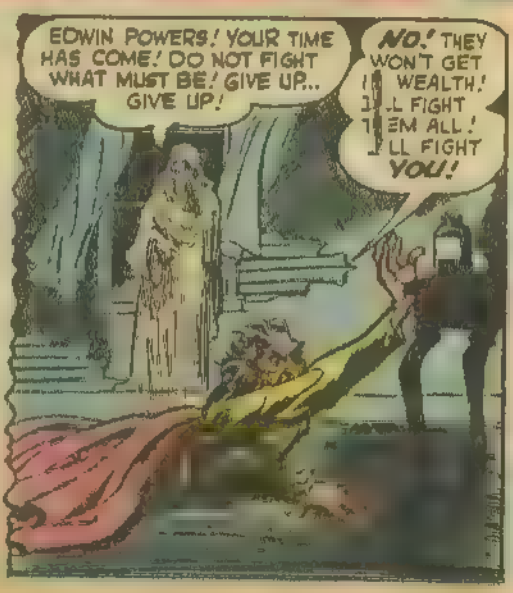

BUT MY SLEEP WAS POOR THAT NIGHT. THE BLITHERING IDIOT HAD FIRED MY BRAIN IN THE WORST POSSIBLE WAY, AND ALL I COULD DO WAS TOSS AND TURN AND DREAM THE WORST KIND OF NIGHTMARES...

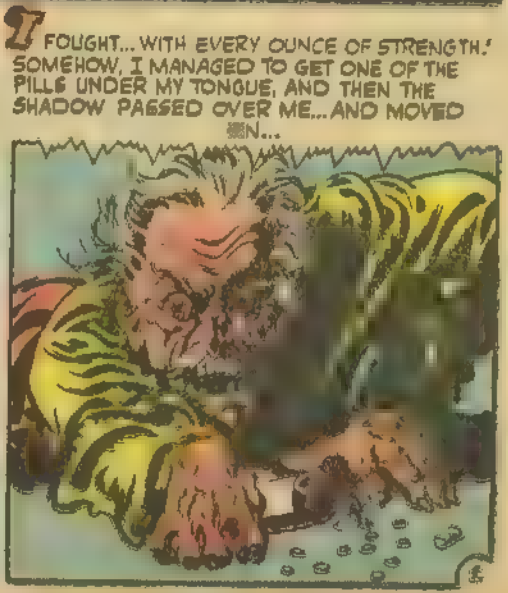

THE MOST DREADFUL OF ALL WAS THE SIGHT OF MYSELF DEAD IN A COFFIN, AND SURROUNDING ME, THEIR FACES TWISTED WITH LEERING GRINS, WERE MY MONEY-SEEKING RELATIVES..
IT'S GOOD SEEING HIM DEAD, EH, MARTHA?
A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT, HENRY!
AND HIS MONEY IS ALL OURS!

KEEP AWAY, YOU VULTURES! YOU WON'T GET MY MONEY! I'LL SEE THAT YOU DON'T!


MY HEART...CAN'T (GASP!) BREATHE! THE PILLS... ON THE TABLE!


AND THEN, DESPITE THE AGONIZING PAIN, I WAS SUDDENLY CONSCIOUS OF AN AWESOME PRESENCE... AND A HOLLOW VOICE SENT WORDS CRASHING INTO MY BRAIN...


EDWIN POWERS! YOUR TIME HAS COME! DO NOT FIGHT WHAT MUST BE! GIVE UP... GIVE UP!
NO! THEY WON'T GET MY WEALTH! I'LL FIGHT THEM ALL! I'LL FIGHT YOU!


I FOUGHT... WITH EVERY OUNCE OF STRENGTH! SOMEHOW, I MANAGED TO GET ONE OF THE PILLS UNDER MY TONGUE, AND THEN THE SHADOW PASSED OVER ME... AND MOVED ON...

I KNEW NOTHING UNTIL THE BRIGHT SUN BEAT AGAINST MY EYELIDS. SLOWLY I LOOKED ABOUT ME..

I-I'M ALIVE! AND MY BODY.. IT FEELS DIFFERENT! IT WAS THE FALL!

AND THE REALIZATION OF WHAT I HAD ACCOMPLISHED BROUGHT A RALLYING TRIUMPH TO MY LIPS

I'VE CHEATED THEM ALL! I'VE CHEATED MY RELATIVES, AND I'VE CHEATED DEATH! THE MOMENT HAS COME AND GONE! I WAS CALLED, BUT I WON OUT! I WON!

THE YEARS PASSED.. MY WEALTH TRIPLED! WORLD-SHAKING CHANGES TOOK PLACE FRIENDS DIED... BUT I WENT ON! SOMETHING ELSE WAS HAPPENING TOO!

PEOPLE HAD BEGUN TO TALK, AND ONE DAY I OVERHEARD THEM AT MY CLUB...

I CAN'T GET OVER OLD MAN POWERS! I REMEMBER HIM WHEN MY FATHER USED TO BRING ME HERE AS A KID... AND THAT WASN'T A FEW YEARS AGO EITHER!

THE OLD DEVIL MUST HAVE AN IRON CONSTITUTION! IT GIVES ME THE WILLIES!

FROM THAT DAY ON I NEVER WENT BACK TO THE CLUB! I BECAME A RECLUSE, AND ON THOSE FEW OCCASIONS WHEN I DID VENTURE OUT, I FOUND IT MORE THAN I COULD TAKE...

LOOK AT THE WALKIN' MUMMY!

AN' PIPE THEM CLOTHES!

WHAT CEMETERY YOU RUNNIN' AWAY FROM?

SO THEN I STOPPED GOING OUT! I DISMISSED MY SERVANTS, AND WHAT FEW THINGS I NEEDED I HAD THEM LEAVE AT THE BACK DOOR! MY LONELINESS WAS OVERPOWERING, TOTAL, COMPLETE...

THERE'S NO POINT GOING ON! I'VE DONE AND SEEN ALL THAT A MAN NEED SEE AND DO! I'VE OUTLIVED MY RELATIONS, AND THEY NEVER GOT MY WEALTH! I HAVE ACCOMPLISHED ALL THE OBJECTIVES I HAD SET OUT TO DO!

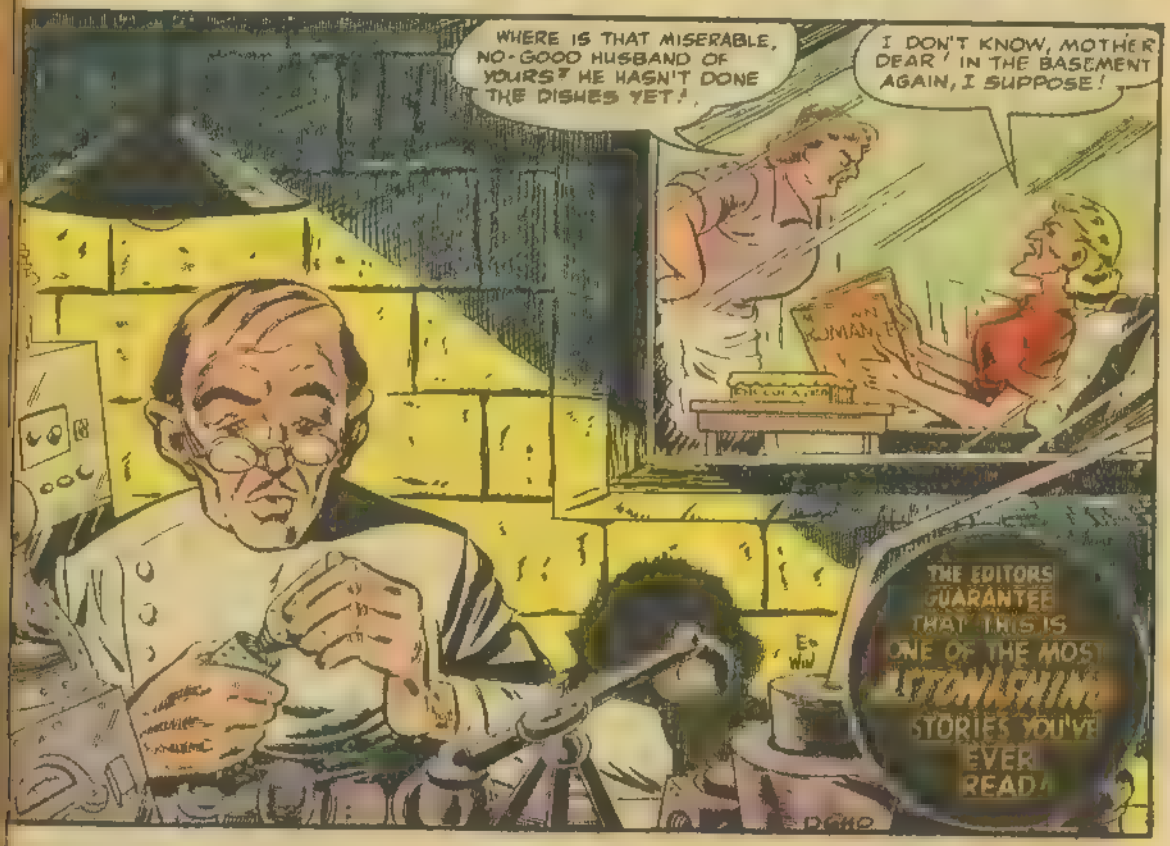
THERE IS NOTHING LEFT FOR ME... BUT TO *BOW OUT!*

With a sense of deliverance, I squeezed the trigger ..
BANG!
The impact sent me hurling across the room...
But nothing happened.
I'M ALIVE!
So I fired again... and again... and again...
BANG!
BANG!
BANG!
I can see the doubt in your eyes! You think I'm an old lunatic, a madman! But I tell you, the bullets did NOTHING! How could they?
I AVOIDED the GRIM MESSENGER who calls for all men, and he PASSED ME BY!
That is whom I wait for. But he doesn't come! He'll NEVER come for ME!

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN WEIRD STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER ATLAS

UGH! WHO WANTS TO LIVE FOREVER, IF YOU'RE GONNA LOOK LIKE THAT? HERE'S A CREEP WHO'S HAVIN' ANOTHER END OF PROBLEM... AND IT'LL TAKE A ... THE FUTURE TO SOLVE HIS DILEMMA... OR THAT'S WHAT HE THINKS.

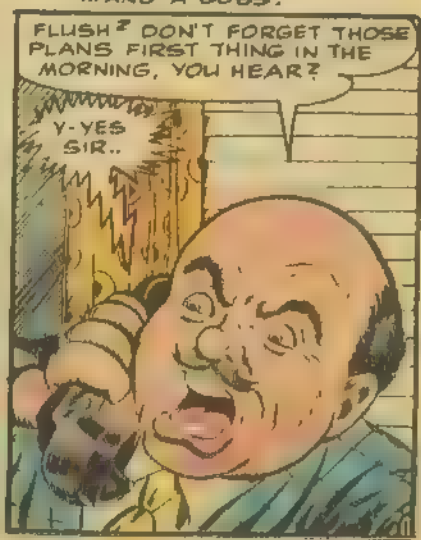
THE FUTURE OF OSWALD FLUSH!


WHERE IS THAT MISERABLE, NO-GOOD HUSBAND OF YOURS? HE HASN'T DONE THE DISHES YET!
I DON'T KNOW, MOTHER DEAR! IN THE BASEMENT AGAIN, I SUPPOSE!
THE EDITORS GUARANTEE THAT THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST ASTONISHING STORIES YOU'VE EVER READ!

THE PRESENT OF OSWALD FLUSH CONSISTED OF A WIFE...

.. A MOTHER-IN-LAW ..

... AND A BOSS!



SOME MEN ARE BLESSED WITH BRAVERY AND AGGRESS VENESS! NOT OSWALD .. ALL HE HAD WAS A CURSE ...THE CURSE OF MEEKNESS...

YOU GOTTA TRY TO STAND UP AGAINST 'EM, OSWALD! DON'T LET 'EM NAG YOU TO DEATH

I JUST CAN'T FIGHT BACK, CLARENCE

BUT YOU'VE A GREAT BRAIN! ONE OF THE GREATEST IN THE SCIENTIFIC WORLD! AND YOU LET 'EM KICK YOU AROUND!

CAN'T HELP IT! MAYBE SOME DAY IN THE FUTURE, I'LL ESCAPE...

THE FUTURE? FORGET IT, OSWALD! UNLESS YOU FIGHT 'EM, YOUR FUTURE'LL BE AS MISERABLE AS YOUR PRESENT!

CAFE

WELL, WELL, DID YOU NOTICE THAT SECRET SMILE ON OSWALD FLUSH'S FACE? WAS THE WORM TURNING? BUT THAT WASN'T POSSIBLE! CLARENCE WAS RIGHT... THERE'S NO ESCAPING YOUR FATE..

SO THESE ARE THE PLANS EH? KIND OF SMUDGY, BUT I'LL WORK THEM OUT! NOW GET TO WORK ON THE FISSION PROJECT AT ONCE!

YES, SIR.

CAN'T GET ALONG WITHOUT FLUSH, BUT HE'S A FOOL, IN SPITE OF HIS SCIENTIFIC GENIUS! AND THAT'S RIGHT UP MY ALLEY! I TAKE ALL THE CREDIT FOR HIS WORK... AND HE'S TOO SCARED TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT!

AND THAT WAS OSWALD FLUSH IN A WORD... A FOOL WHO SUFFERED IN SILENCE! BUT THE SECRET OF OSWALD FLUSH WAS SOMETHING ELSE AGAIN ..

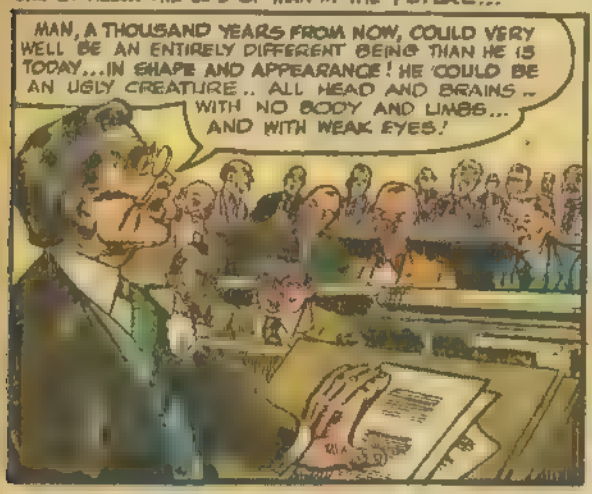
A LITTLE MORE WORK ON MY MACHINE AND I'LL BE FREE OF ALL THIS!

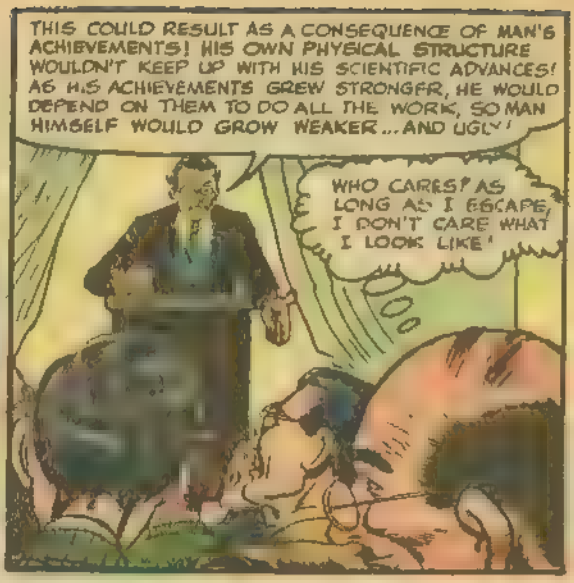
MY TIME MACHINE! THAT'S WHAT WILL FREE ME! MY SPIRIT MAY BE WEAK, BUT MY BRAIN IS STRONG! AND THAT'S WHAT I'LL USE TO ESCAPE... MY BRAIN... AND MY TIME MACHINE.. I'LL ESCAPE INTO THE FUTURE!

IF I REVEALED IT, I'D BE RICH AND FAMOUS... BUT NOT FREE! THEY'D STILL BE THERE, PICKING ON ME! I ALONE WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MY SECRET!

OSWALD! GET TO WORK

PART OF OSWALD'S JOB AT THE LAB CONSISTED OF ATTENDING LECTURES BY FAMOUS EXPERTS OF SCIENCE ' HE DIDN'T DARE MISS THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE OF ALL..."THE LIFE OF MAN IN THE FUTURE..."


MAN, A THOUSAND YEARS FROM NOW, COULD VERY WELL BE AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT BEING THAN HE IS TODAY...IN SHAPE AND APPEARANCE! HE COULD BE AN UGLY CREATURE.. ALL HEAD AND BRAINS .. WITH NO BODY AND LIMBS... AND WITH WEAK EYES!

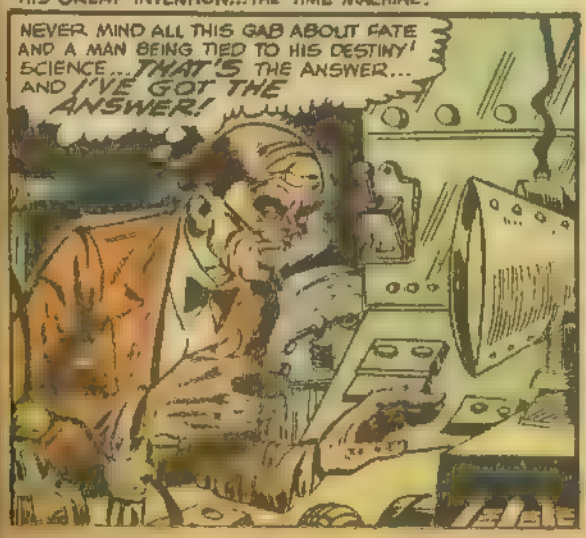

THIS COULD RESULT AS A CONSEQUENCE OF MAN'S ACHIEVEMENTS! HIS OWN PHYSICAL STRUCTURE WOULDN'T KEEP UP WITH HIS SCIENTIFIC ADVANCES! AS HIS ACHIEVEMENTS GREW STRONGER, HE WOULD DEPEND ON THEM TO DO ALL THE WORK, SO MAN HIMSELF WOULD GROW WEAKER...AND UGLY!
WHO CARES! AS LONG AS I ESCAPE, I DON'T CARE WHAT I LOOK LIKE!

AND, A FEW DAYS LATER, THE PRESENT OF OSWALD FLUSH CAME TO AN END...

AND DON'T MAKE ANY NOISE WASHING THOSE DISHES! MOTHER AND I WANT TO WATCH TELEVISION!
YES, MY DEAR!
YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT ANY MORE NOISE FROM ME, YOU WITCHES!

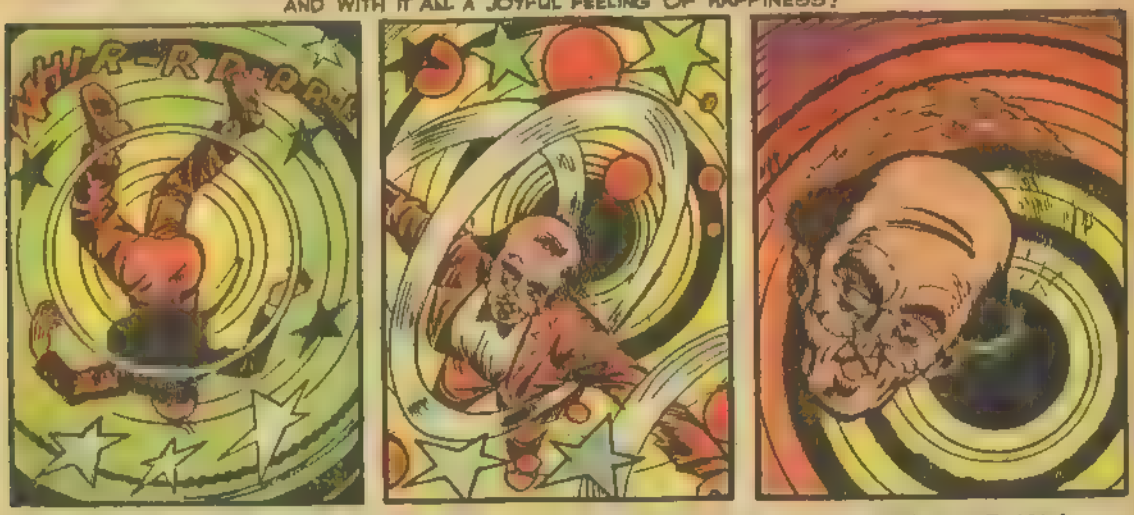
NIGHT..BLESSED NIGHT THAT BROUGHT RESTFUL SLEEP TO OTHERS... BUT [redacted] TO OSWALD FLUSH!

DOWN INTO THE BASEMENT AND INTO HIS SECRET COMPARTMENT WENT OSWALD FLUSH AND TOOK OUT HIS GREAT 'INVENTION...THE TIME MACHINE!



HE SEIZED THE HANDLE...TURNED ON THE SWITCH, AND ..

TIME AND SPACE SUDDENLY VANISHED AS OSWALD FLUSH WAS HURTLED ON HIS JOURNEY INTO THE FUTURE! THERE WERE GREAT FLASHES OF COLOR, A SENSE OF WHIRLING IN A BRILLIANT VOID, AND WITH IT ALL A JOYFUL FEELING OF HAPPINESS!


WHIR-R-R-R

...TA CALL ME ... BUT ... GONNA BE A M... GAD, LAD.

UNTIL YOU ARE... DEAD!

IT WAS FAST APPROACHING MIDNIGHT IN THE BLEAK CELLS OF ABERMARLE PRISON, AS THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE GUARDS ECHOED DOWN THE CORRIDOR TOWARDS THE DEATH CELL! MANY TIMES THEY HAD WALKED THIS VERY SAME PATH TO REMOVE A MAN FROM HIS CELL TO THE GAS CHAMBER! BUT THIS NIGHT WAS DIFFERENT...THIS NIGHT SENT CHILLS THROUGH EACH OF THEM..BECAUSE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY. THE CONDEMNED MAN *LAUGHED!*

HA! HA! C'MON, YOU SLOW-POKES! WHAT'RE WE WAITIN' FOR? I JUST CAN'T WAIT TO GET TO SEE THAT FAMOUS GAS CHAMBER OF YOURS!

HA! HA! HO! HA! HO! HA! HA HA HA! HO! HA!

THE EDITORS GUARANTEE THAT THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST ASTONISHING STORIES YOU'VE EVER

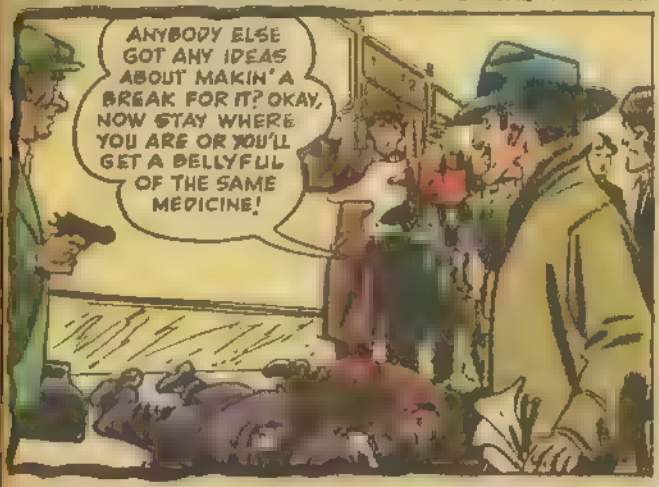
EVERY GUARD AND PRISONER IN THE SECTION WATCHED IN SILENCE AS KILLER RYAN STEPPED ACROSS THE THRESHOLD...

AW, C'MON, FELLAS! WHY SUCH LONG FACES? YOU'D THINK YOU WERE GOING TO A FUNERAL! *HA! HA!* GET IT...SOME JOKE...A FUNERAL! HA! HA!

IT WAS STRANGE AND FRIGHTENING IN A WAY! NONE OF THEM HAD EVER SEEN A MAN LAUGH ON THE WAY TO THE CHAMBER! IT WAS TOO GRIM AND HORRIFYING TO THINK THAT A LAUGHING VOICE WOULD SOON BE CHOKING ON THE MISTY GAS...GASPING FOR A DROP OF AIR...STRANGLING TO DEATH...

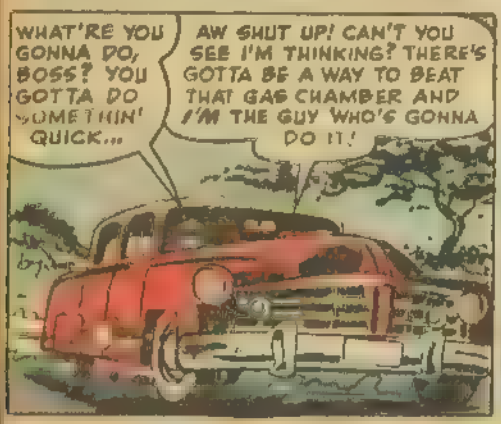
YEP, IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE...AND GREAT TO BE ALIVE! WELL, BOYS, SO LONG FOR NOW! KILLER RYAN WILL BE SEEING YOU ALL IN THE FUNNY PAPERS! *HA! HA!*

THE WHOLE THING STARTED A MONTH BEFORE THE DATE OF EXECUTION, WHEN KILLER RYAN AND HIS BOYS HELD UP THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK IN BROAD DAYLIGHT! EVERYTHING WENT SMOOTHLY...EXCEPT FOR TWO HYSTERICAL PATRONS...

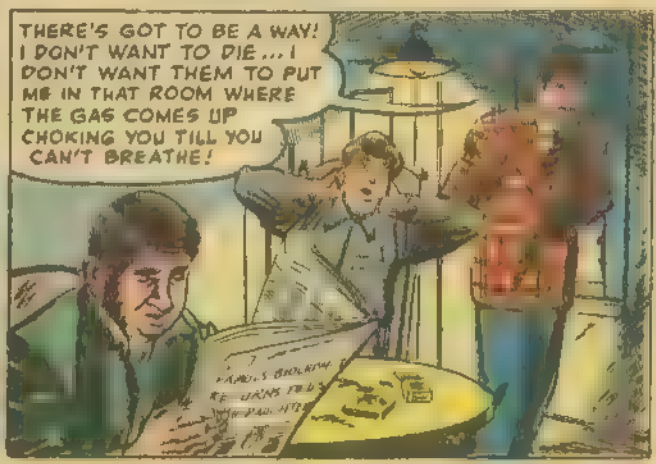

ANYBODY ELSE GOT ANY IDEAS ABOUT MAKIN' A BREAK FOR IT? OKAY, NOW STAY WHERE YOU ARE OR YOU'LL GET A BELLYFUL OF THE SAME MEDICINE!

GEE, BOSS! YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE BUMPED THOSE TWO OFF...NOT WITH A DOZEN WITNESSES STANDIN' AROUND! YOU'RE GONNA BE HOTTER THAN A FIRECRACKER!
YEAH! DON'T I KNOW IT! IF THE COPS EVER LAY THEIR MITTS ON ME IT'S THE GAS CHAMBER FOR SURE! I'VE GOTTA FIND A WAY OUT!

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFE, KILLER RYAN WAS AFRAID! UP UNTIL NOW HE'D BEEN CLEAN ...HIS MEN HAD TAKEN CARE OF ALL THE KILLING THAT HAD TO BE DONE! BUT THIS TIME HE'D COMMITTED MURDER IN FRONT OF WITNESSES...THERE COULD BE NO FALL GUY!


WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO, BOSS? YOU GOTTA DO SOMETHIN' QUICK...
AW SHUT UP! CAN'T YOU SEE I'M THINKING? THERE'S GOTTA BE A WAY TO BEAT THAT GAS CHAMBER AND I'M THE GUY WHO'S GONNA DO IT!

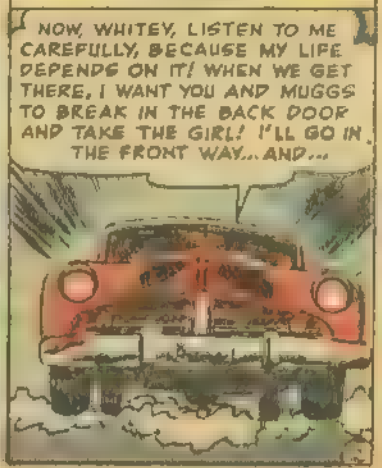
THE NIGHT CLOAKED THEM WITH ITS PROTECTIVE BLACKNESS, AND THEY MADE IT TO THE SHACK THAT WAS TO BE THEIR HIDE-OUT! EVERYONE BREATHED EASIER... EVERYONE EXCEPT RYAN...


THERE'S GOT TO BE A WAY! I DON'T WANT TO DIE... I DON'T WANT THEM TO PUT ME IN THAT ROOM WHERE THE GAS COMES UP CHOKING YOU TILL YOU CAN'T BREATHE!

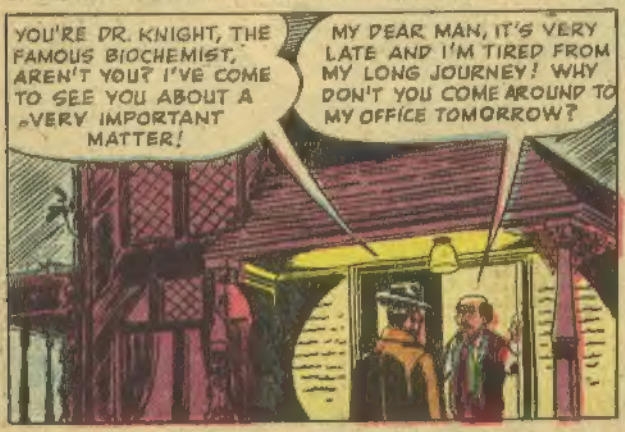
WAIT A MINUTE! LET ME SEE THAT PAPER YOU'RE READING! FAMOUS BIOCHEMIST RETURNS... UH-OH...I THINK I'M GETTING AN IDEA! IT'S A LONG SHOT BUT WHAT CAN I LOSE?
WHAT IS IT, BOSS? WHAT'RE YA GONNA DO?
FAMOUS BIOCHEMIST RETURNS TO U.S. WITH DAUGHTER

I'M GOING TO PAY THAT SCIENTIST AND HIS DAUGHTER A VISIT...AND I'M GOING TO PUT THE PROBLEM RIGHT IN HIS LAP! HE'S GOING TO FIND A WAY TO SAVE ME... OR ELSE!

FOR THE SECOND TIME IN A SINGLE DAY, THE STILL-HOT TIRES OF THE BIG CAR THUNDERED DOWN THE ASPHALT HIGHWAY...


NOW, WHITEY, LISTEN TO ME CAREFULLY, BECAUSE MY LIFE DEPENDS ON IT! WHEN WE GET THERE, I WANT YOU AND MUGGS TO BREAK IN THE BACK DOOR AND TAKE THE GIRL! I'LL GO IN THE FRONT WAY...AND...

KILLER RYAN MOVED WITH SURE STEPS UP THE FRONT PATH OF THE MANSION! HIS HAND WAS FIRM AS HE BANGED THE BRASS KNOCKER AGAINST THE DOOR! IN EVERY WAY HE SEEMED CONFIDENT...BUT THE SLIGHT HIDDEN TREMBLE OF HIS LIPS BETRAYED HIS FEAR THAT HE MIGHT FAIL...

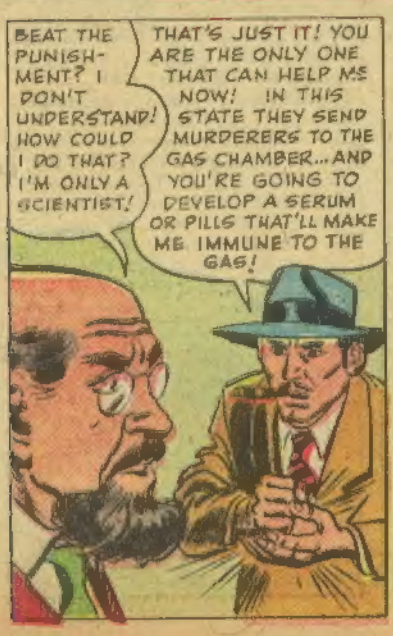

YOU'RE DR. KNIGHT, THE FAMOUS BIOCHEMIST, AREN'T YOU? I'VE COME TO SEE YOU ABOUT A VERY IMPORTANT MATTER!
MY DEAR MAN, IT'S VERY LATE AND I'M TIRED FROM MY LONG JOURNEY! WHY DON'T YOU COME AROUND TO MY OFFICE TOMORROW?

I'M AFRAID MY BUSINESS CAN'T WAIT! I'VE COME A LONG WAY TO SEE YOU ABOUT A SPECIAL JOB OF RESEARCH YOU'RE GOING TO DO FOR ME!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR GAME IS, BUT IF YOU THINK I'M AFRAID OF MEN WITH GUNS, YOU DON'T KNOW ME VERY WELL! NOW GET OUT!

THE MOMENT OF SILENCE WAS SPLIT BY A SCREAM FROM THE HOUSE, AND A FEW MINUTES LATER...

HELEN! WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO YOU? PUT HER DOWN, YOU SWINE! IF YOU TOUCH A HAIR OF HER HEAD...
RELAX, DOC! NOTHING'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOUR DAUGHTER, AS LONG AS YOU WORK ALONG WITH ME ON THIS LITTLE PROJECT! ARE YOU READY TO LISTEN?

ALL RIGHT! YOU WIN...I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU ASK...JUST DON'T LET ANY HARM COME TO MY DAUGHTER!
THAT'S MORE LIKE IT! HERE'S THE STORY... I KILLED A COUPLE OF PEOPLE IN FRONT OF WITNESSES TODAY, AND I KNOW THEY'RE GONNA CATCH UP WITH ME! I CAN'T BEAT THE RAP... BUT I WANT YOU TO HELP ME BEAT THE PUNISHMENT!


BEAT THE PUNISHMENT? I DON'T UNDERSTAND! HOW COULD I DO THAT? I'M ONLY A SCIENTIST!
THAT'S JUST IT! YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE THAT CAN HELP ME NOW! IN THIS STATE THEY SEND MURDERERS TO THE GAS CHAMBER...AND YOU'RE GOING TO DEVELOP A SERUM OR PILLS THAT'LL MAKE ME IMMUNE TO THE GAS!

VERY WELL! MY PRIVATE LABORATORY IS DOWN HERE! IT WILL BE THE BEST PLACE FOR ME TO WORK UNINTERRUPTED!
I'LL COME DOWN WITH YOU AND SEE THAT THERE ARE NO PHONES OR EXITS!

OF COURSE YOU REALIZE THAT A THING LIKE THIS CAN'T BE DONE OVERNIGHT! IT MIGHT TAKE DAYS OR EVEN WEEKS!
THAT'S OKAY WITH ME, DOC! ME AND MY BOYS WILL MAKE OURSELVES COMFORTABLE HERE IN YOUR HOUSE! I DON'T CARE HOW LONG IT TAKES...I MUST HAVE THAT STUFF!

UNDER HEAVY GUARD, THE BIOCHEMIST WORKED IN HIS LABORATORY NIGHT AND DAY TO DISCOVER AN ANTIDOTE THAT WOULD ENABLE THE KILLER TO BREATHE POISON GAS WITHOUT BEING KILLED...

MIXTURE AFTER MIXTURE, COMPOUND AFTER COMPOUND WERE TRIED TOGETHER IN A FRANTIC EFFORT TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF BEATING THE DEATH CHAMBER...

IT'S BEEN OVER A WEEK NOW, DOC... I GOT A FEELING THE BOSS IS GETTING KIND OF IMPATIENT!

THE FACE BEGAN TO TELL ON THE OLD MAN... EYES RED FROM LACK OF SLEEP... FACE PINCHED FROM LACK OF FOOD! HE BEGAN TO SUFFER FROM ATTACKS OF DIZZINESS...

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GIVE UP NOW ARE YOU, DOC? IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO HAVE TO KILL YOUR DAUGHTER!

JUST LET ME REST A WHILE AND I'LL FIND THE ANSWER... I KNOW YOU'LL KILL ME ANYWAY... BUT LET THE GIRL LIVE!

THEN ONE EVENING THE DOCTOR STUMBLED INTO THE ROOM HOLDING A SMALL PACKAGE NEATLY TIED IN WHITE PAPER! THE KILLER LOOKED AT HIM WITH NARROW, GREEDY EYES...

I'VE GOT IT! I'VE FOUND THE ANTIDOTE! THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT! THESE PILLS WILL WORK AND YOU'LL BE ABLE TO BREATHE THE POISON GAS AS IF IT WERE PURE AIR!

YEAH? WHAT PROOF DO YOU HAVE IT'LL WORK?

THEY FOLLOWED THE OLD SCIENTIST BACK INTO THE LABORATORY...

AFTER FEEDING THE GUINEA PIG ONE OF MY SPECIAL FORMULA PILLS, I PLACE HIM IN THIS AIRTIGHT CONTAINER, TO WHICH IS ATTACHED A TUBE THAT WILL CARRY IN THE SAME KIND OF GAS USED IN THE DEATH CHAMBER...

THE GLASS CHAMBER WAS SEALED OFF AND THE DOCTOR'S TREMBLING HAND REACHED FOR THE HANDLE! SUDDENLY THE ROOM BECAME SILENT EXCEPT FOR THE GENTLE HISSING OF POISON GAS...

LOOK, BOSS... IT WORKS! THAT CAGE IS FULLA GAS AND THE ANIMAL IS BOUNCING AROUND AS HAPPY AS EVER!

JUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO OPEN THE BOTTLE UNTIL YOU'RE READY TO SWALLOW THEM OR THEY'LL EVAPORATE!

THE DOCTOR STARED INTO THE MUZZLE OF RYAN'S GUN AND BRACED HIMSELF FOR WHAT HE HAD EXPECTED! A SHARP CRACKING SOUND CAUGHT HIM IN THE STOMACH... HIS HEAD SNAPPED BACK AND HE GASPED IN PAIN...

SORRY I HAD TO DO IT, DOC! BUT YOU KNOW TOO MUCH! I'D BE WORRIED ALL THE TIME YOU'D TELL THE COPS ABOUT OUR NEW DRUG!

YOU'LL PAY, YOU FOOL... AHHHHH!

THAT WAS THE EXPLANATION OF KILLER RYAN'S STRANGE BEHAVIOR...THE REASON FOR THE LAUGHTER ON THE PART OF A MAN WHO IS SUPPOSED TO FEAR DEATH! THEY OPENED THE DOOR TO THE CHAMBER...

SO LONG, RYAN! YOU WON'T BE LAUGHING FOR VERY LONG!
I'LL GIVE YOU TEN TO ONE ODDS THAT I'LL BE LAUGHING LONG AFTER THEY PUMP THE GAS IN THERE!

THE DOOR CLANGED SHUT AND HE WAS ALONE IN THE ROOM WITH THE SMOOTH WALLS! HE SAW THE GRATE THRU WHICH THE GAS WOULD SOON FLOW... BUT HE WASN'T AFRAID...

ONCE THEY START THE EXECUTION, I'M SAFE! IF I DON'T DIE NOW, THEY CAN'T PLACE MY LIFE IN DOUBLE JEOPARDY BY USING ANOTHER METHOD! I'LL BE THE FIRST GUY TO BEAT THE RAP!
SLAM!

HIS EARS CAUGHT THE OPENING OF THE VENTS! NOW WAS THE TIME TO TAKE THE ANTIDOTE... NOW WAS THE TIME TO SHOW THEM WHO WAS SMARTER...

HIGHER AND HIGHER THE GAS LEVEL ROSE AND RYAN STOOD THERE READY TO BREATHE THE DEADLY MIXTURE INTO HIS LUNGS! BUT SUDDENLY A TERRIFYING THOUGHT OCCURRED TO HIM...

A FEW SECONDS LATER THE GAS LEVEL WAS OVER HIS HEAD! HE HELD HIS BREATH AS LONG AS HE COULD... AFRAID HIS NEXT BREATH WOULD BE HIS LAST...BUT THEN HE COULDN'T HOLD BACK ANY LONGER...

IT WORKS! I CAN BREATHE THE GAS! I'VE WON...KILLER RYAN HAS MADE FOOLS OF THEM ALL...AND NOW THEY WILL HAVE TO LET ME GO FREE... THEY CAN'T EXECUTE A MAN TWICE!

SUDDENLY THE LAUGHTER AND SHOUTING STOPPED...KILLER RYAN'S EYES CAUGHT SOMETHING THAT HE HADN'T NOTICED BEFORE...WRITTEN ON THE INSIDE OF THE WRAPPER! HIS BREATH CAME IN QUICK GASPS AS FEAR WRENCHED AT HIS LUNGS...

THE GAS CHAMBER WAS SOUNDPROOF AND SO THE ASTONISHED ENGINEER IN CHARGE OF THE EXECUTION COULD NEVER HEAR WHAT THE PRISONER WAS SHOUTING... BUT HE SAW THE LOOK OF TERROR THAT COMES BEFORE DEATH...

STOP! STOP! DON'T LET THE GAS OUT! LET ME STAY IN HERE! YOU CAN'T TAKE ME OUT! I WANT TO STAY HERE!
but if course once you take these pills and breathe poison gas you'll never be able to breathe real air again!

DON'T MISS "FANGS OF THE VAMPIRE" IN THE NEXT, GREAT ISSUE OF ASTONISHING! FROM COVER TO COVER, IT'S LOADED WITH THRILLS!

JUNIOR SPACE PILOTS ON THE BEAM!

GIVEN!

BOYS! GIRLS! LADIES! MEN!

WE GIVE YOU CASH OR PREMIUMS!

I'M IN A HURRY TO GET BACK TO OUR EARTH BASE, PENNY, THE MAIL MAN'S BRINGING MY NEW CAMERA!
JUMPIN' JUPITER! YOU'RE SURE SIZZLING TH' OL' ROCKET TODAY, TED!

SAY! THAT CAMERA SURE IS SUPERSONIC! YOU MUST HAVE STRUCK A URANIUM LODE!
DIDN'T COST ME A DIME- JUST GOT IT FOR SELLING WHITE CLOVERINE BRAND SALVE!
HURRY AN' GET DE-PRES-SURIZED!

MAIL COUPON

Footballs, Pocket Watches, etc.

Fishing Outfits . . . Flashlights . . . 1000 Shot Daisy Air Rifles

ACT NOW!

HURRY

I'VE EARNED A SWELL RADIO AND A TELESCOPE TOO! IT'S EASY SELLING TO YOUR FRIENDS - AND YOU GIVE 'EM THESE SWELL ART PICTURES -
THAT'S FOR ME!

WE ARE RELIABLE!

Cameras, Corn Poppers, Speedball Cartoon Sets, Aluminum Ware, Blankets (sent postage paid). Mail coupon for SALVE and pictures to start.

ACT NOW

Ukeleles, Watches, Lovable Dolls.

CLOVERINE BRAND SALVE

LOW PRICE 35c

OUR 59th YEAR

Alarm Clocks, Pen & Pencil Sets, etc. Mail coupon.

ACT NOW

BE FIRST

Radios, Candid Cameras with carrying cases, Telescopes, Roller Skates (sent postage paid) . . . Mail coupon to start.

LET'S GO!

Food Choppers, Carving Sets, Bibles. Mail coupon.

LOOK!

WE TRUST YOU!

.22 Cal. Rifles, Archery Sets, School Boxes, Wallets. Mail coupon for SALVE and pictures to start.

LET'S GO!

Footballs, Telescopes (sent postage paid), Boys', Girls' Bicycles (express chgs. collect).

ACT NOW!

Boys', Girls' Wrist Watches, Baking Sets, Typewriters, etc.

Lucite Dresser Sets, Cook Books, etc.

ACT NOW!

MAIL COUPON!

GET BIG CATALOG!

Candid Cameras with carrying case, Telescopes, Watches (sent postage paid). SIMPLY GIVE pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE easily sold to friends, neighbors, relatives at 35c a box (with picture). Alarm Clocks, Pen & Pencil Sets, Bibles, Billfolds, Telescopes, Roller Skates, Blankets, Aluminum Ware, Record Players, Movie Machines (postage pd.). Rush coupon to start!

Guaranteed by Good Housekeeping

LET'S GO!

WE TRUST YOU!

OUR 59th YEAR!

OUR 59th YEAR - WE ARE RELIABLE! MAIL →

MAIL NOW!

Wilson Chemical Co., Dept. B-148, Tyrone, Pa. Date _____

Gentlemen:- Please send me on trial 14 colorful art pictures with 14 boxes of White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE to sell at 35c a box (with picture). I will remit amount asked within 30 days, select a Premium or keep Cash Commission as explained under Premium wanted in catalog sent with order, postage paid to start.

NAME _____ AGE _____

ST. _____ R. D. _____ BOX _____

TOWN _____ ZONE NO. _____ STATE _____

PRINT LAST NAME HERE

Paste coupon on postal card or mail in envelope today